

SENATE BILL 2474
By Ketron

AN ACT to name a bridge on U.S. Highway 41A in the City of Eagleville in honor of John Redmond.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who have made sacrifices in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than John Redmond, formerly of the United States Army, who was severely injured in combat and subsequently awarded two Purple Hearts for his brave service in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which Eagleville, Rutherford County, and the Volunteer State are renowned, John Redmond was inducted into the United States Army in 1966; after receiving basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he was almost immediately deployed to Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, John Redmond did not shrink from serving in Vietnam, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty against the aggression of Communism; and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 1967, only nine months into his tour of duty in Vietnam, John Redmond was severely wounded by a RPG round while serving in a U.S. Army Tank Division; and

WHEREAS, John was rendered unconscious for two months as a result of his injuries, and due to tragic miscommunication, his family was twice mistakenly informed that he had died in combat; and

WHEREAS, after his condition stabilized, the U.S. Army shipped John to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to begin a lengthy recovery process, which lasted nearly a year; his doctors

there informed him that he would never walk again, but displaying the great American spirit of fortitude, Mr. Redmond persevered to prove the medical experts wrong, and he walked out of the hospital upon his discharge; and

WHEREAS, nearly forty years later, John has only very limited use of the right side of his body and vision in only one eye, yet he steadfastly maintains that he is proud to have served his country; he looks at life from a uniquely positive viewpoint, basking in the happiness he shares with both his family and his extended family, the entire Eagleville community; and

WHEREAS, John Redmond was born in 1941 in the Mount Vernon area of rural Rutherford County near Eagleville; the oldest of eight children, he is the son of the late Woodrow Wilson Redmond and Irene B. Lorance; and

WHEREAS, John is truly a product of Eagleville, born and raised; he attended all twelve years at Eagleville School, and displaying an exemplary work ethic, he began working at Marshall's Grocery in that fair city when he was only eleven years old and continued his employment there through high school; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, John worked at several jobs before settling in with Coca-Cola; upon returning home from Vietnam, he returned to his job with Coca-Cola and worked nearly twelve years in sales with the company; and

WHEREAS, John Redmond is fortunate to share love and companionship with his daughters, Jamie and Emily, and his grandchild, Corrie, and he is tickled to have another grandchild on the way; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the love and companionship he shares with his mother, siblings, daughters, and grandchild, John serves as a father figure, favorite uncle, and big brother for his extended family, the people of Eagleville; and

WHEREAS, although he plays the role of Santa Claus in the Eagleville Christmas Parade each year, John Redmond is truly THE celebrity in Eagleville all year long; and

WHEREAS, John is a fixture around Eagleville's various businesses, stores, and restaurants during the daylight hours, and he gladly runs errands for the proprietors; and

WHEREAS, when he is not otherwise engaged, John can be seen riding his beloved golf cart all over Eagleville; he has been given free rein to drive his vehicle whenever and wherever he pleases by none other than the town's police chief, because, after all, "It's John's town."; and

WHEREAS, John is also a faithful attendee of Eagleville's sporting events during the evening hours; and

WHEREAS, John Redmond served with great courage and gallantry, sacrificing his body and his health for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that rare sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, John Redmond's valiant service in the military and his love of his family, his fellow Eaglevillians, and his country, as exemplified in his great sacrifice in defense of all that he holds dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the Eagleville City Council has petitioned this body to name a certain bridge on U.S. Highway 41A in that fair city to permanently commemorate John Redmond's singular patriotism, courage, and sacrifice as a soldier and his enduring status as Eagleville's most prominent and beloved citizen; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Cheatham Creek on U. S. Highway 41A in the City of Eagleville, Rutherford County is hereby designated the "John Redmond Bridge" as a lasting tribute to Eagleville's favorite son who served his country courageously and with great personal sacrifice in Vietnam.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "John Redmond Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.